



Pete Ricketts, Governor

DATE: March 6, 2020

TO: NDCS Inmate Population

FROM: Scott R. Frakes, Director

RE: Coronavirus Update

Over the last two weeks there has been increased focus concerning the coronavirus (COVID-19). At this time, there are no confirmed cases in Nebraska. As an agency, we continue to monitor the status of this virus. Even prior to the onset of this year's flu season, the agency began evaluating supplies and response, to help minimize the chance that people would get sick. If you are among those who would still like to get a flu shot, please do. The flu (as well as coronavirus) is more likely to pose serious complications for those who are elderly or have compromised immune systems or underlying health conditions.

In addition to vaccinations, we have also sent out reminders about some simple, but effective things people can do to keep viruses at bay:

- Wash your hands 20 seconds or more with soap and water. Do it frequently.
- Keep personal surfaces disinfected.
- Cover coughs (if possible, cough into a tissue and throw the tissue away)
- Keep your hands away from your face. This increases the possibility of transmitting germs to your mouth, nose and eyes.
- If you are working as a porter, take your job very seriously. It may feel boring to repeatedly clean the same areas during your work shift – but good sanitation keeps everyone healthier.

The best defense we have at this point is following the common sense preventative steps that we have emphasized since the onset of the flu. We continue to ask visitors and volunteers to refrain from coming into the facilities if they are ill. While I encourage all to be informed, I also know how easy it is to be overwhelmed by excessive and sometimes, erroneous information.

Do your best to stay healthy. Get plenty of rest. As new information becomes available, we will continue to share it.

Scott R. Frakes, Director

Dept of Correctional Services

P.O. Box 94661 Lincoln, NE 68509-4661
Phone: 402-471-2654 Fax: 402-479-5623

corrections.nebraska.gov